

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite “organic polymer fine particles.” This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, pages 114 to 116 and the Examples.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended to further improve their form. These amendments are not to be deemed to narrow the scope of the claims.

Claim 16 has been added. Claim 16 is supported by the specification, for example, page 114, 2nd paragraph.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-16 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Form PTO/SB/08 A & B

The Examiner has not returned a signed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of September 7, 2004. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial and date the form and return a signed copy to Applicants in the next PTO communication.

II. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 2003-073598 to Takahashi et al. (“JP ‘598”) in view of Yoshino et al. (U.S. Patent 5,955,185).

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable over the cited references. Specifically, Yoshino et al. does not disclose or suggest a void volume per unit thickness of the colorant receiving layer or organic polymer fine particles. Further, although Yoshino et al. describes in col. 1, line 48, a “urea-formalin-resin powder,” the technology described therein is used for a support having a colorant receiving layer. Therefore, even if, *arguendo*, there might be motivation to combine the cited references, the combination still would not result in the present invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/824,526

Attorney Docket No.: Q80776

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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